

California Electric and Magnetic Fields Program

N E W S L E T T E R

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES UPDATE**March/April 2001**

Stakeholders Advisory Consultants Meeting April 25, 2001

The next Stakeholders Advisory Consultants (SAC) meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 25, 2001, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Goldsmith Room of the California EMF Program office at 1515 Clay Street, 17th floor, Oakland. The main agenda items at this meeting are a presentation by De-Kun Li and Gerri Lee of the results of the EMF and miscarriage prospective epidemiology studies, a discussion of the options for future EMF education and technical assistance activities after the California EMF Program's end, and an update on the Risk Evaluation and Policy Integration reports. Telephone connections through a toll-free number will be available for people who wish to participate by phone. To get the telephone connection information, or if you have questions, please contact Myra Alcaide at (510) 622-4434 between 8 a.m. and noon Monday through Friday.

Scientific Advisory Panel Meeting May 7, 2001

The California EMF Program's Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) will hold its next meeting on Monday, May 7, 2001, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., to discuss the Risk Evaluation and Policy Integration projects. The Panel will meet in Training Room D of the Elihu Harris State Office Building at 1515 Clay Street, 2nd Floor, Oakland. Stakeholders and members of the public are welcome to observe this meeting.

Program Milestone

The Risk Evaluation and the Policy Integration have been sent to the DHS Director's office for review.

New Liaisons from the California Public Utilities Commission

Due to an increased workload, Moises Chavez and Beth Shipley will no longer be the California Public Utilities Commission's primary liaisons with the California EMF Program. We very much appreciate the role that Moises and Beth have played in the past and hope that they will continue to follow the EMF Program's progress in the future. The new representatives from the CPUC are Chloe Lukins and Kelly Henderson of the energy division. Both Chloe and Kelly have previous experience working on environmental issues before joining the CPUC, and program staff are looking forward to working with them through the program's end.

Dr. Neutra to Chair World Health Organization Workshop

Dr. Raymond Neutra has been invited to chair a World Health Organization workshop titled "Precautionary Policies and Health Protection: Principles and Applications." He will attend this workshop in Rome, Italy, as an individual while on

vacation at the end of May. In addition to chairing this workshop, Dr. Neutra has been asked to describe EMF avoidance policies in the United States that exemplify the range of precautionary approaches that can be taken given uncertainty about possible EMF health effects.

Working Group for the IARC Monograph on EMF to meet in France

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is preparing a Monograph on Static and Extremely Low Frequency Electromagnetic Fields (Volume 80 of the IARC Monographs series). A Working Group composed of 22 scientists from 10 countries will meet in Lyon, France, from June 19 through June 26, 2001 to evaluate the evidence and work on the draft monograph. The Working Group includes Vincent DelPizzo, of the EMF Program's Research Unit, and Leeka Kheifets, one of the Program's Stakeholders.

Research Unit Progress

Risk Evaluation

Staff submitted the EMF Risk Evaluation draft to the Department of Health Services for permission to release it for public comment. The draft is currently undergoing departmental review in Sacramento.

Policy Integration

Staff submitted the EMF Policy Integration draft to the Department of Health Services for permission to release it for public comment. Like the Risk Evaluation, this document is currently undergoing departmental review in Sacramento.

Power Grid/Land Use Policy Analysis

Delivery of the final report has been delayed due to minor inconsistencies between figures within the report. We expect the final report to be completed in the near future.

School Policy Analysis Project

Revisions in response to the peer reviewers have taken longer than expected. We expect the final report to be completed this summer.

Prospective Miscarriage Study

The Kaiser EMF miscarriage study has been accepted for publication by the journal *Epidemiology* for publication sometime in November 2001.

DHS EMF Miscarriage Study

The DHS EMF miscarriage study was also submitted to *Epidemiology* and is undergoing minor revisions in response to reviewers' comments. If all goes well, the two related studies should be published in the same issue this fall.

Education and Technical Assistance Unit Progress

Fact Sheets

Education Unit staff have continued to update drafts of the *EMF in Schools Fact Sheet* and the *Frequently Asked Questions about EMF in Residences Fact Sheet*. We hope to send these new fact sheets to the DHS Director's office for approval in the near future.

Response to Public Questions

In the last two months, the California EMF Program continued to receive questions from members of the public about EMF in residential and work environments. As discussed in previous newsletters, the program is attempting to phase out its public response activities but still makes an effort to respond to questions received by mail, e-mail, and telephone.

Web Site

New Links:

A *Current Items* section has been added to our web site on the bottom of our home page. From this section, you can access the most recent program newsletter and information about upcoming meetings. The 2000 Report to the CPUC is also currently linked from this section.

Re-design:

California's eGovernment Office, which oversees the official state web sites, has declared that all state agency and department web sites must adhere to specific web portal standards. To follow this state mandate, the Health Education Assistant has started re-designing the EMF Program's web site to conform to the new web standards.

Research Project Non-Technical Summaries

Risk Evaluation Guidelines Non-Technical Summary

This non-technical summary has been sent to the DHS Director's office for release approval.

School Exposure Assessment Non-Technical Summary

This non-technical summary is also awaiting release approval from the DHS Director's office.

School Policy Project Non-Technical Summary

The Health Education Assistant has been working on this non-technical summary that will highlight conclusions from the *Rationales for State-wide Policies Addressing Magnetic Fields in Public Schools* document.

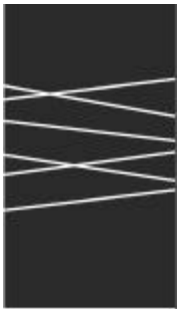
Power-Grid Policy Project Non-Technical Summary

The Health Educator is awaiting the final version of the Power Grid Policy Project Report before starting to write the brief summary of this project.

EMF PROGRAM STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Raymond Neutra	622-4905	rneutra@dhs.ca.gov	Jessica Hecht	622-4430	jhecht@dhs.ca.gov
Alvin Leonard	622-4432	alvinleonard@yahoo.com	Kim Merin	622-4435	kmerin@dhs.ca.gov
Vincent Del Pizzo	622-4418	delpizzo@yahoo.com	Jack Collins	622-4431	jcollins@dhs.ca.gov
Geraldine Lee	622-5091	gerrilee17@yahoo.com	Myra Alcaide	622-4434	malcaid1@dhs.ca.gov

main phone (510) 622-4500, fax (510) 622-4505



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A project of the California Department of Health Services and the Public Health Institute
Elihu Harris State Office Building
1515 Clay St., 17th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

watch for our Web site at <http://www.dnai.com/~emf/>